



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

MAIL

Paper No. 4

JOHN R. ROSS, III
ROSS PATENT LAW OFFICE
P.O. BOX 2138
DEL MAR, CA 92014

JUL 11 2002

DIRECTOR OFFICE
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

In re Application of :
Brian L. Ganz et al., :
Application No.: 09/982,048 :
Filed: October 18, 2001 :
For: AUTOMATED VERIFICATION AND
INSPECTION DEVICE FOR
SEQUENTIALLY INSPECTING
MICROSCOPIC CRYSTALS

DECISION ON PETITION TO
MAKE SPECIAL

This is a decision on the petition, filed October 18, 2001, pursuant to M.P.E.P. 708.02(XII): Biotechnology, to make the above-identified application special.

A grantable petition under M.P.E.P. § 708.02, Section XII, SPECIAL STATUS FOR APPLICATIONS RELATING TO BIOTECHNOLOGY FILED BY APPLICANTS WHO ARE SMALL ENTITIES. Applicant must file a petition with the petition fee under 37 CFR 1.17(i) requesting the special status and must:

- (A) state that small entity status has been established or include a statement establishing small entity status;
- (B) state that the subject of the patent application is a major asset of the small entity; and
- (C) state that the development of the technology will be significantly impaired if examination of the patent application is delayed, including an explanation of the basis for making the statement.

All the above requirements are met and the petition is **GRANTED**.

The application will retain its special status throughout its entire course of prosecution in the Patent and Trademark Office, including appeal, if any to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences, subject only to diligent prosecution by the applicant. The application file will be forwarded to the examiner for expedited prosecution.

Kenneth A. Wieder
Kenneth A. Wieder
Special Program Examiner
Technology Center 2600
Communications
(703) 305-4710